

BOOK REVIEWS

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ALCOHOL & ALCOHOLISM—Papers Presented at the International Symposium in Memory of E. M. Jellinek, Santiago, Chile—Edited by Robert E. Popham. Published for the Addiction Research Foundation by University of Toronto Press, Toronto 181, Ontario, 1970. 421 pages, \$15.00.

In August, 1966 an international symposium on alcohol and alcoholism was held in Santiago, Chile, as a memorial to the late Dr. E. M. Jellinek, recognized as one of the leading authorities in the field of alcoholism. Now, four years later, Robert E. Popham and the Addiction Research Foundation have selected for publication 50 of the most important papers presented at that symposium. They hoped to prepare a medical text on alcohol and alcoholism suitable for those students and physicians interested in research, treatment, education and program development. Unfortunately the text falls far short of its goals and can not be considered the up to date, definite text in this important field.

The text does have certain areas of merit. The tributes to Dr. Jellinek give added perspective to the alcoholism problem. The multi-authored sections give needed depth to many important specialized research areas. It is especially interesting to read the translated papers of Central and South American specialists who participated in the symposium, since they rarely publish in standard English journals. Unfortunately, the presentation of papers is often unsuitable for teaching and at times becomes too specialized for the average reader. The papers presented on the metabolism of alcohol at high altitudes, the biochemical studies of the "anti-alcohol drug" (metronidazole), important genetic factors in alcoholism and epidemiological study of alcoholism in Latin America, are especially informative and interesting. However, the major drawbacks of the text are that the research format presentation has not been uniformly edited and the authors have attempted to update this 1966 conference simply by adding minor footnotes to key topics.

Critical advances in this field over the past four years are covered only in passing or added as brief footnotes to longer sections. Recent topics that deserved more discussion include the effect of alcohol on the metabolism of other drugs, alcohol effect on intestinal absorption and function, possible important biochemical parameters of alcohol addiction, the physiological bases for alcohol withdrawal, sleep disturbances in alcoholism, adrenal pituitary responses to alcohol, newer drug treatment of the alcohol withdrawal syndrome and the important development of animal models for alcohol withdrawal. Especially lacking to the clinician who is interested in alcoholism is the absence of a presentation of the effects of alcohol on carbohydrate metabolism. Thus, although the text may be valuable to a limited audience, it does not achieve the desired scope this topic deserves.

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ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY—Benjamin M. Kagan, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.P., Director, Department of Pediatrics, Consultant, Department of Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Professor of Pediatrics, University of California, Los Angeles; with Contributions by 46 Authorities. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1970. 500 pages, \$14.50.

Every few years the *Pediatric Clinics of North America* issues a volume in which antimicrobial therapy is discussed. Such volumes appeared in 1956, 1961 and 1968. The authors of individual chapters in the 1968 volume were asked in 1969 to bring their presentations up to date so that they could be compiled as a separate independent volume on antimicrobial therapy, under the editorship of Dr. B. Kagan of Los Angeles. The first half of the present book thus is an updated version of the 1968 *Pediatric Clinics* volume and the changes in the discussion of individual drugs are relatively minor. In the second half of the book "clinical applications" are discussed. Ten sections have been added here, dealing with antimicrobial agents in orthopedics, in burns, in trauma, in ophthalmology, in dermatology and in other specialized infection problems. Thus the present, 1970 version is a reasonably complete and fairly up-to-date reference book for antimicrobial therapy listing the preferences and prejudices of each author. There is some emphasis on the use of antimicrobial drugs in infants and children and a useful chapter on dosage is appended. Inevitably there is some repetition (e.g. of side effects of drugs) and some discrepancies in recommended uses can be noted. Inevitably also, the life span of specific listed recommendations will be short as microorganisms change in their resistance patterns and new drugs arrive on the market.

In spite of these limitations the book appears to be a useful reference work which can help physicians in selecting antimicrobial drugs for specific indications and in guarding patients against some untoward effects—at least in 1970.

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FROZEN BLOOD—A Review of the Literature 1949-1968—Arthur R. Turner, M.D. Gordon and Breach, Science Publishers, Inc., 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10011), 206 pages; \$19.50 for Reference, prepaid \$15.60; \$10.00 for Professional, prepaid \$8.00.

Readers looking for a well-organized, informative, authoritative summary of the current state of the art of freezing red cells will not find it here. This book tells who said what, when, where—each paper summarized in a sentence or two. Equal attention is given to articles old and new, whether they summarize years of experience or are a Master's thesis. An attempt is made to arrange the material in logical headings; however, as recognized by the compiler, the complex interrelationship of the many variables which affect the red cells inevitably leads to confu-